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November 1965

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## INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

NEW DIRECTIONS  
IN POLISH TERRITORIAL AND CIVIL DEFENSE

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE  
Office of Research and Reports

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NEW DIRECTIONS  
IN POLISH TERRITORIAL AND CIVIL DEFENSE\*

In a move aimed at improving rear area defenses, the Polish civil defense organization is now being incorporated into a larger rear area defense organization designated the National Territorial Defense (OTK) system.\*\* This system was significantly strengthened earlier this year by the transfer of two of its elements -- the Polish Internal Security Corps (KBW) and the Border Guard (WOP) -- to the Ministry of Defense, and by the subsequent appointment of Lt. Gen. Grzegor Korczynski as a Deputy Minister of National Defense and Chief Inspector of Territorial Defense. These moves are part of an ambitious effort to consolidate existing local forces into a unified system better able to cope with the effects of a major war. A second, obvious objective of the OTK system is to free Polish and allied field forces for the accomplishment of their primary missions and to keep them from becoming embroiled in such tasks as population control, guard duty, railroad and road repair, and civil defense operations. Moreover, the OTK system probably is intended to expedite the mobilization and movement of combat units in a threatening or wartime situation.

1. Background

The need for improved rear area defense has been openly acknowledged by the Poles for several years. Since early 1962, Polish military writers have called attention to the threat of bomber and missile attacks in a future war, as well as to the danger of airborne or seaborne commando and "terrorist-sabotage" operations against targets in Poland. With the interior of the nation viewed as a distinct theater of war, it was argued that rear area defense would require "suitable forces and systems of command" and that every citizen should be trained in civil defense tasks.

2. The OTK System

In a move to improve rear area defense, the Polish civil defense is being incorporated into a larger organization designated the National

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\* The estimates and conclusions in this brief represent the best judgment of this Office as of 4 November 1965.

\*\* Reportedly, the old civil defense title, Local Antiair Defense (TOPL), will be retained only for the national civil defense staff; nonmilitary civil defense units in urban and rural areas are to be called simply "self-defense" units.

Territorial Defense (OTK) system. By now, the transfer of forces into the OTK has probably been substantially completed. The OTK system, under the direction of Lt. Gen. Grzegor Korczynski, was recently defined as including the National Air Defense Forces,\* the Internal Security Forces, the Border Guard, the Territorial Defense Forces, and "other military units" whose mission is to defend the populace and state property in the event of air or sea attack and to eliminate the effects of this attack. Specialized units -- construction, medical, firefighting, and technical rescue -- also are included, as are the factory and regional self-defense (civil defense) units organized in industrial plants and in the villages, which are responsible for carrying out local civil defense tasks. In addition, certain military signal troops have been identified as a part of the OTK system.

A number of Polish organizations which formerly supported the civil defense effort are now charged with similarly supporting the OTK system. These include the National Defense League (LOK), the Polish Aero Club (APRL), the Polish Red Cross (PCK), the Volunteer Fire Brigade Union (ZOSP), the Volunteer Reserve of the Citizens' Militia (ORMO), and the Polish Union of Short Wave Radio Operators (PZK). The estimated strength of selected Polish territorial defense elements is as follows:

	<u>Estimated Strength</u>
Main elements	
Internal Security Corps (KBW)	25,000
Border Guard (WOP)	20,000
Territorial Defense Regiments	24,000 to 36,000
Civil Defense (TOPL) units	400,000 <u>a/</u>
"Self-Defense" (Civil Defense) units	210,000 <u>a/</u>
Supporting organizations	
National Defense League (LOK)	1,200,000 <u>a/</u>
Polish Aero Club (APRL)	80,000 <u>a/</u>
Polish Red Cross (PCK)	3,500,000 <u>a/</u>
Volunteer Fire Brigade Union (ZOSP)	400,000 <u>a/</u>

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a. Given in Polish publications.

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\* Integrated Warsaw Pact air defense in wartime probably would limit OTK authority over active air defense units.

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Under the Ministry of Defense, the chain of command of the OTK system passes through the military district commands to the territorial headquarters established at the province (województwo) and county (powiat) levels. At the provincial and the county levels, the head of the civil government is the official in charge, as was true in the former civil defense structure. He is assisted in the exercise of OTK command by a chief of staff and other military officers. Each province and county probably has territorial defense troops assigned to it in addition to the civil defense and other stationary units available in the local area.

Combined territorial defense exercises, of which several have been publicized, have replaced civil defense exercises to some extent this year. According to the Polish press, participating units in one territorial exercise included the Citizens' Militia, a territorial defense regiment, fire brigades, medical services, self-defense units, and specialized units (decontamination, rail, power, and "repair-construction").

### 3. Territorial Defense Regiments

#### a. Responsibilities

Since early 1963 a new type of unit -- the territorial defense, or OTK, regiment -- designed to augment rear area defense capabilities has been developed in Poland. The draft law was changed in that year to permit conscripting men deferred from regular military service to serve in the territorial defense system. The territorial defense regiments, as a combat force of the OTK system, are reported to have the following military missions: (1) to protect the population and state property from nuclear attack and to "eliminate" the effects of these attacks; (2) to defend specific areas together with the other components of the armed forces in the event of enemy penetration and to destroy enemy landings and subversive groups, and (3) to safeguard and facilitate the operations of other military components. The first mission is quite obviously one of civil defense -- shelter construction, warning, control, and post-attack rescue and repair. The second includes combating enemy commando-type landings and saboteurs or dissidents activated among the indigenous population. The last includes such operations as guard duty at supply depots and other vital installations, maintaining the security and operational capability of communications and transportation lines, and repair work on strategic factories and installations.

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b. Training

The regiments apparently function as a unit for only six months of the year, the winter months probably being devoted to cadre training and preparations for the May-November period when the area draftees are inducted. Regimental officers and noncommissioned officers are chiefly reservists. Draftees are reported to be liable for serving three six-month tours spread over a number of years. During their six months' active service, they are given 14 days basic military training and are then assigned to engineering construction work at economic installations five days a week, with Saturdays reserved for further military training. According to the Polish press, territorial defense units have been used in the construction of factories, dams, roads, and other projects.

From the foregoing, it seems clear that OTK regiments serve as a paramilitary "job corps" for Polish youth. While in OTK service, soldiers are given political indoctrination and vocational training, mainly through on-the-job training. Attempts also are made to raise the educational level of those with inadequate schooling. Training of a military and civil defense nature prepares the draftee to perform as a combat soldier, as a military guard, or as a relief and rescue worker. In 1964, the Poles claimed that about 9,000 OTK servicemen had completed their basic education, while over 3,000 had acquired occupational skills.

c. Strength

25X1X The total strength of territorial defense regiments has not been officially disclosed. In 1964-65 the Polish press identified 10 territorial defense regiments,\* while two additional units, probably regiments,\*\* have been reported by [REDACTED] who claimed to have served in one such unit during 1963. Therefore, there probably are at least 12 regiments now in existence. According to the Polish weekly Czata, every region of Poland -- province and county -- now has an organized and trained defense force and thus an operational capability. If the report is true that Warsaw has its own regiment, OTK regiments might number as many as 18. Regimental strength has been reported to be 2,000 men. On the basis of these reports, it is estimated that 24,000 to 36,000 territorial reservists could presently be available for mobilization in an emergency.

\* The regiments are designated by the following city names: Kielce, Krakow, Rzeszow, Mazowiecki, Szczecin, Opole, Lodz, Warsaw, Bydgoszcz, and Gdansk.

\*\* Designated Biskupiec and Bialystok.

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4. Continued Growth of Civil Defense

While the expanded OTK rear area defense system has been developing, the Polish press reports that citizen civil defense units have been increasing in both size and activity. The largely rural self-defense units organized under the sponsorship of the National Defense League were recently reported to have grown from 125,000 members in 1963 to 210,000 members in 1965. Factory civil defense units have been reported on several occasions to include 400,000 members. About 3.5 million citizens also have had basic civil defense training. Polish authorities do not consider the number having civil defense training as being satisfactory, and compulsory training of the population has been proposed.

5. Implications

The development of the Polish OTK system of rear area defense probably is being watched closely by the other Communist countries. There has been an exchange of civil defense thinking, training, and publications among the USSR and the Eastern European Communist countries, and problems in this field are expressed in similar terms. Solutions to mutual problems will necessarily involve some system of integrating elements of the economy, the civilian government, rear area military units, police and paramilitary organizations, and civil defense units into a viable structure under a coordinated command.

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3. CIA, FDD/EEDPR/16 Jul 65, p. 21, Off Use.
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6. [REDACTED]  
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16. Air, 7000 Sup Wg, AF 1475765, 3 Oct 61, U.
17. CIA, FDD/EEDPR/8 Sep 65, p. 34, Off Use.
18. CIA, FDD/EEDPR/30 Sep 65, p. 24, Off Use.

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19. CIA, FDD/EEDPR/14 Jul 65, p. 33, Off Use.

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